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rate easily, the rest of the leaves may be removed from the solution, and treated in the same way; but if not, then the boiling must be continued for some time longer. To bleach the skeletons, mix about a drachm of chloride of lime with a pint of water, adding sufficient acetic acid to liberate the chlorine. Steep the leaves in this till they are whitened (about ten minutes), taking care not to let them stay in too long, otherwise they are apt to become brittle. Put them into clean water, and float them out on pieces of paper. Lastly, remove them from the paper before they are quite dry, and place them in a book or botanical press."—*Dr. G. Dickson, Hardwicke's Science Gossip, Jan. 1. 1867.*

ZOOLOGY.

THE EDIBLE CRAB IN SALEM.—A large specimen of the common Edible Crab of the Southern markets, *Lupa dicantha*, was caught in the Millpond during the past winter. With the exception of a young specimen found on Phillips' Beach, it has not before been known to occur so far north as Massachusetts Bay. The Millpond is an inlet of Salem harbor, and the water is quite salt.—C. COOKE.

MIMETIC FORMS AMONG THE BUTTERFLIES.—Mr. A. R. Wallace states before the British Association, that "the *Heliconidæ*, a group of butterflies with a powerful odour, such as to cause birds to avoid eating them, were simulated by the females of another group, which had no smell, and might otherwise fall ready victims to birds. By their great resemblance to the obnoxious butterflies, the scentless females were enabled to escape pursuit, and deposit their eggs."—*The Reader, London, Oct. 6, 1866.*

FERTILE WORKERS AMONG THE HONEY BEES.—Mr. Tegetmeier, at the meeting of the Entomological Society of London, June 4, 1864, exhibited some drones hatched from eggs laid by fertile workers:

They were produced by placing in March, a comb containing eggs and larvæ in *workers' cells only*, in a hive which had been sometime without a queen, and which consequently contained no brood whatever. There was no apparent attempt made by the bees to form a royal cell and to rear a new queen from the workers' eggs, but after the latter were hatched the bees produced from them laid eggs. These were deposited in the drone cells only, sometimes as many as six being placed in one cell, of which only one was hatched, a drone in all cases being produced. It was noticed that these fertile workers were hatched and laid eggs before any drones had been observed in the adjacent hives. Huber supposed that such workers were produced by partaking of some of the food designed for the production of a queen, which had been deposited in the cells adjacent to the royal one. This supposition was disproved, as there was no royal cell in the single brood comb which the hive contained.

He shows that a too close interbreeding in bees is prevented by drones from other hives entering into the hive—while stranger work-

ers are killed, stranger drones are readily received; thus the deterioration of the race is prevented.

A BLACK VARIETY OF THE COMMON RED SQUIRREL, *Sciurus Hudsonicus* Pallas. I have lately obtained a black specimen of the common Red Squirrel. It was killed at Letang, New Brunswick, where neither the Grey, nor the common Black Squirrel are known to occur.—G. A. BOARDMAN.

GEOLOGY.

DISCOVERY OF A HUMAN JAW IN A BELGIAN BONE CAVE.—Dr. Dupont has discovered in the Bone Caves of Farfooz, near Dinant, in Belgium, a strange human jaw. It is the opinion of Sir. W. V. Guise, and Rev. W. S. Symonds, who have examined this locality,

“That the geological period of the entombment of the human jaw, with the remains of the extinct animals with which it was associated, may be assigned to the epoch known to geologists as the *low level drift period* of Prestwich, a period recent in a geological sense, but enormously remote when measured by *time*, for the cold of the glacial epoch was not altogether passed, and the extinct mammalia were still in existence. It was the period of the deposition of the old river drifts of Menchecourt, near Abbeville, which contain their human flint implements, interbedded with the bones of the Mammoth and Rhinoceros; the period of the deposition of the ancient river beds near Salisbury, and other parts of England, which teach the same history; and also, they believe of the English bone caverns.”—*The Reader, London, Sept. 1, 1866.*

A LIZARD-LIKE SERPENT FROM THE CHALK FORMATION OF ENGLAND.—Fossils indicating a creature of this character have been discovered by Mr. H. E. Seeley.—*The Reader, London, Oct. 6, 1866.*

DISCOVERY OF GENUINE CHALK IN COLORADO AND DACOTA.—“Chalk has at last been found in this country—genuine chalk, with flints and an abundance of fossils. Smoky Hill, Colorado, is an outlying mass of chalk, probably the only remainder of a vast mass which denudation has removed.”—*T. A. Conrad, Smithsonian Report, 1865.*

Dr. F. V. Hayden has also discovered in Yankton, Dakota Territory, large deposits of a “nearly white, soft chalk,” which “will be found to represent the White Chalk Beds of Europe, and be employed for similar economical purposes.”—*Amer. Journal Science and Arts, Jan. 1867.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

ON THE PLUMAGE OF THE BLACK-GUILLEMOT.—How does it happen that we find the Black Guillemot (*Uria grylle* Lath.), in full black plumage all winter? All our works on Natural History tell us they change to white or grey in winter, but I often get specimens which are black in mid-winter. May it not be that only the young are light in winter? I can hardly think it possible some would remain black, and others change; I can see no difference between my dark winter and summer specimens.—G. A. BOARDMAN, *Milltown, Me.*